



Inside Illinois DNR

September 2022 • Volume 10, Number 9

In This Issue

- OSLAD Grants
- Conservation Achievement Scholarships
- Apply for Bobcat Permit
- Bids for Agriculture Leases

Find Out More

DNR Home Page

Natural Resources

Parks and Recreation

Mines and Minerals

Hunting and Trapping

Fishing

Education/Outreach

Safety and Rules

Online Services

IDNR Careers

IDNR offers a wide array of professional careers in the conservation and natural resource arena. **Click here** to see the job openings available.

www.dnr.illinois.gov

Message from Director Colleen Callahan



Be disruptive!

Do you know someone who has contemplated suicide?
Did you know how to respond to their distress?

During **National Suicide Prevention Week, Sept. 4-10**, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has joined an initiative aimed at preventing suicide by posting mental health crisis support information at Illinois state parks.

Operation Disrupt signs displaying the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone number and website have been posted – or will soon be posted – at 17 state parks around Illinois.

Illinois state parks and trails are beautiful, peaceful respites for hundreds of thousands of visitors every year. As IDNR continues to remind people that spending time in nature has positive mental health benefits, it's also important that we ensure people in crisis at a state park know about helpful resources that are available.

Operation Disrupt is an initiative announced earlier this year to address the growing epidemic of teen and young adult suicides. It was developed by a joint task force including Linden Oaks Behavioral Health, Naperville Park District, City of Naperville, and Forest Preserve Districts of DuPage and Will Counties.

Although IDNR and the Illinois Conservation Police do not keep statistics about the number of suicides in Illinois state parks, we know they are not uncommon. Most Illinois conservation police officers have received crisis training so they can provide appropriate assistance when needed.

"One sobering aspect of conservation police work is that officers will most likely encounter a suicide in a state park at some point in their career," said Illinois Conservation Police Director Jed Witchurch. "We want to do everything we can to ensure people in crisis have access to help, even in the most remote areas of the state. Proper crisis training for officers and the Operation Disrupt signs are two important steps toward that goal."

If you or someone you know is in crisis and needs help, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline can be reached by dialing 988. That simple three-digit number connects the caller to a certified crisis center near where the call is placed. For more information, visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>.

OPERATION DISRUPT

This Area Patrolled by
Illinois Conservation Police

NATIONAL

SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

CRISIS TEXT LINE

DNR in the News

[August Outdoor
Illinois Journal](#)

[Invasive Fish Threat](#)

[Spitler Woods State Park](#)

[Volo Bog State Natural Area](#)

Statewide Offices

Springfield, IL
217-782-6302

Bartlett, IL
847-608-3100

Benton, IL
618-435-8138

Highlights



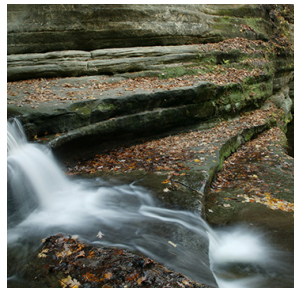
Invasive silver carp removed from Lake Calumet

IDNR and the [Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee \(ICRCC\)](#) announced the removal of one silver carp from Lake Calumet in the Chicago Area Waterway System. Lake Calumet is approximately seven miles from Lake Michigan. The fish was captured Thursday (8/4/22) by gill netting and electro-fishing crews from IDNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following a reported sighting of an invasive carp by a member of the public earlier this week. The silver carp was 38.3 inches in length and weighed approximately 22 pounds.



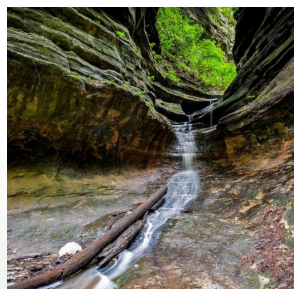
2022 Conservation Achievement Scholarship recipients announced by Illinois Conservation Foundation

The [Illinois Conservation Foundation \(ICF\)](#) has announced the recipients of its 2022 Conservation Achievement Scholarships. Allison Klemstein of Vernon Hills, Tanner Spencer of Rushville, Will Jenkins of Raymond and William Weber of Flanagan will each receive \$2,000 to apply toward specified college expenses. All four have graduated from high school and will begin their freshman year of college.



Make Plans to Visit a State Park

Great memories can be made at Illinois' State Parks get outside and visit one today. If you recently visited a site and would like to provide feedback [visit](#).



Starved Rock State Park Fall Events

Make sure to register for fun "[Fabulous Fall](#)" events at Starved Rock State Park. Learn about mushrooms, saplings, and enjoy the fall colors.

Highlights



Click for info



Click for info



Click for info



Click for info



Application period open for OSLAD grants

A long-standing grant program that helps communities cover the cost of local park development will offer up to 100% funding assistance for distressed communities for the first time in the history of the program. Applications will be accepted through Sept. 30 for the next round of [state-funded Open Space Land Acquisition and Development, or OSLAD, grants](#).



Tickborne Heartland Virus is Reported in Jackson County in Southern Illinois

An older person who resides in a rural area of Jackson County recently tested positive for [Heartland Virus](#), the third reported case in Illinois since 2018, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced. The first two Heartland virus cases in Illinois were reported in 2018 in Kankakee County and Williamson County. Likely spread by the Lone Star tick, more than 50 cases of Heartland virus disease have been reported in the Midwest and southern United States since 2009.



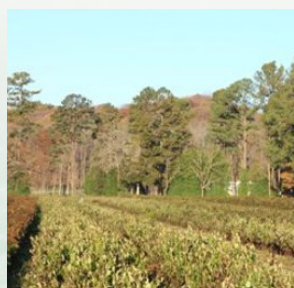
Fall Hunting

The IDNR reminds hunters to make safety a priority this hunting season. Harvest reporting for hunting at IDNR sites must be done online at [Windshield Card and Harvest Reporting page](#). Visitors to IDNR sites are reminded that hunting programs are underway and to not enter areas closed for hunting.



Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

[Public duck/goose hunting applications](#) for the second lottery drawing are being accepted through September 15, 2022. Youth Waterfowl Hunt applications will be accepted through October 1, 2022.



Mason State Tree Nursery

Place your fall potted plant or seed packet orders from the [Mason State Tree Nursery](#).



Click for info

Join today for just \$35!



BECOME AN ICF MEMBER TODAY!

Help build, preserve and restore conservation throughout Illinois

By becoming a member of the ICF, your support will help build, preserve, and restore conservation across Illinois. As an ICF member, you'll also receive these exclusive member benefits:

- Personalized Membership Card
- ICF Branded Stainless Steel Tumbler
- ICF Vinyl Sticker
- ICF's Digital Newsletter
- VIP Opportunities at Future ICF Events



<https://ilconservation.org/Who-We-Are/ICF-Membership>



Learn to Hunt Workshops

[Learn to Hunt Deer](#) and [Hunt Camp](#) are a couple of the upcoming workshops from the Learn to Hunt Program, Register today!



Apply for Bobcat Permit

Hunters and trappers must possess a [Bobcat Hunting and Trapping Permit](#) before taking or attempting to harvest a bobcat. Bobcat permit applications are available online only between September 1 - 30. Applicants must submit a \$5 non-refundable fee. Available permits will be allocated during a lottery and mailed to successful applicants.



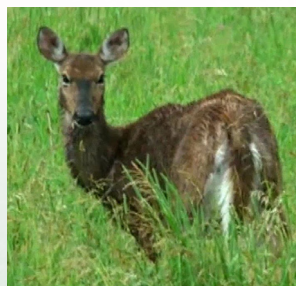
Cruise-In at the David Davis Mansion on September 10

See all makes and models of vehicles from antique to modern at the [David Davis Mansion](#) on September 10 from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for the annual Cruise-In, co-sponsored by the David Davis Mansion Foundation and the Mid-State Cruisers!



Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship grants

IDNR announced 10 grants totaling \$500,000 for land trusts in Illinois to support stewardship on land protected by the [Illinois Nature Preserves Commission \(INPC\)](#). The goal of the Illinois Natural Areas Stewardship grant program is to increase the delivery of much needed stewardship activities to natural areas permanently protected within the INPC system.



IDNR to conduct public informational meetings about Chronic Wasting Disease in northern Illinois

IDNR will host a series of public meetings throughout northern Illinois to provide updated information about [Chronic Wasting Disease](#), its effect on future deer populations and IDNR's efforts to control the disease.



IDNR to accept bids for agriculture leases for 2023-2026

IDNR will accept sealed bids this fall for approximately 40 agricultural lease contracts for [crop years 2023-2026](#). The IDNR utilizes agricultural leases as a tool to support wildlife populations and recreational opportunities at sites owned or managed by the agency. The leases developed under this program will promote ecologically sound agricultural practices to improve soil health, minimize soil erosion, improve water quality and reduce chemical impacts to benefit wildlife populations and their habitats.



Illinois to address up to 20% of orphaned oil, gas wells in the state thanks to federal infrastructure funding

Funding from [President Joe Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) will allow Illinois to begin plugging, capping and reclaiming up to 20% of the orphaned oil and gas wells in rural communities around the state, Gov. JB Pritzker and IDNR announced.



Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations 2022-2023

The [Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations](#) is available online and is shipping to vendors now.



Sandburg Songbag Concert Series presents musician, poet Ken Waldman Sept. 11

The Carl Sandburg Songbag Concert Series continues with [Ken Waldman](#) on Sunday, Sept. 11 at Carl Sandburg State Historic Site in Galesburg. A musician, poet and plane crash survivor, Ken Waldman brings a host of talents and experiences to this special performance. Featuring the fiddle and mandolin, Waldman will perform a variety of old-time folk songs. His set will include both original poetry and poetry by Carl Sandburg. A poem inspired by Knox College Professor Robin Metz will also be featured.

Highlights



Click for info



Click for info



Click for info



Click for info



Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site Bluegrass Concerts and Traditional Music Festival

Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site will host [Bluegrass Concerts](#) on Sept. 9 and 10, from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Performers from all over the Midwest will be playing bluegrass music in the Kelso Hollow outdoor theater. On Sept. 10, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. is the Traditional Music Festival. Musicians will be playing traditional music on such instruments as mountain and hammer dulcimers, concertinas, bones, autoharps, fiddles, banjos, and guitars throughout the historic village. Traditional, folk and bluegrass musicians are invited to participate in the weekend impromptu jam session.



25th Annual Prairie Day at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area

Spend part of your day with the [Goose Lake Prairie Partners](#) in the Prairie Grove Picnic Area on Sept. 17, from 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Put lawn chairs in the car and bring them along. Enjoy the fun with prairie wagon rides and prairie walks and much more.



Fall Equinox Sunrise Observance at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

Welcome the rising sun on Sept. 25 at 6:30 a.m., join Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site for the [Fall Equinox Sunrise Observance](#).



Visit DNR on  Facebook and  Twitter



Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.

Printed by the authority of the State of Illinois. DNR-DIR-230001-09, web 